



TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION

Meeting minutes of Thursday, February 21, 2019

Green County Courthouse in Monroe at 7:00 PM

Present: Committee members –Heimann, Wolfe, and Bartels of Lafayette County, Torkelson and Blumer from Green County. Schilling and Winters had excused absences and Butteris from Iowa County was also absent.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Heimann at 7:30 PM (delayed for a member who was late) and he asked if the meeting was properly posted. Tom Jean verified the meeting was posted at the Green, Lafayette and Iowa County Courthouses, Darlington Municipal Building, the Lafayette County Highway Dept. and on the website. Mr. Heimann declared this to be a properly posted legal meeting with enough members present to constitute a quorum.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Mr. Bartels and the motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2018 meeting was made by Mr. Blumer and seconded by Mr. Torkelson. The motion carried.

Discussion and update on the status of the DNR grant funding for the projects along the Cheese Country Trail - Tom has filed an extension request with FEMA for projects related to the declared disaster of July 2017. To date we have accumulated \$26,113.41 of July 2017 flood related expenses and still have about \$10,000 left to do. The October 2018 storm also did considerable damage to portions of the trail and Tom is looking into DNR funding for the restoration of that event. Lee still had bridge rehabilitation grant money available to repair 4 different bridges near Gratiot.

Discussion and update on general maintenance/signage or encroachment issues along the Cheese Country Trail - The Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission has received an application from the Town of Wayne regarding the abandonment of Tuller Lane and the bridge that goes over the Cheese Country Trail, west of South Wayne. The application is asking for permission for the Town of Wayne to work on the railroad right of way, so they can remove the bridge that crosses the Cheese Country Trail on the former Tuller Lane (the road was recently abandoned). While this bridge has been a landmark to the Cheese Country Trail, now that the road that it services has been abandoned, it has become a liability to the Town of Wayne, the Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission and The Tri County Trails Commission. With that in mind and following some discussion, a motion to sign the work permit to allow the Town of Wayne to

work on the Cheese Country Trail right of way for removal of the Tuller Lane Bridge, was made by Russ Torkelson and seconded by Karl Blumer. The motion passed 4-1 with Leon Wolfe casting an opposing vote.

Trail Maintenance Update – Local ATV & Snowmobile Clubs - Paul McCarville gave an update on the use of the Cheese Country Trail for snowmobiles this winter. Paul said that the trail has been getting a lot of use (more than the past several years combined) and they have been grooming 2-3 times per week. There was some question on how much grooming was needed and if the other clubs are grooming like they should be. Lee mentioned that the snowmobile clubs should be made to attend winter meetings to report on what they are doing and keep us informed on how much money they are spending on grooming.

Legislative update - None.

Public comment - None.

Fencing Request - None

Status of Funds - Tom presented the Status of funds which showed the 2018/2019 expenditures. A motion was made by Mr. Wolfe and seconded by Mr. Bartels to approve them as shown and the motion carried.

Vouchers - The only voucher that was presented for payment was from WisNet for the maintenance of the Trails Website. Following some discussion, it was decided that this was a duplication of the County Website. Deb was going to look into whether this invoice was for the coming year or for the year that was just completed. She will report back next month. On a related note, Deb is retiring from the County soon and the Tri County Trails Commission will not have her services available to process the vouchers. We will need to coordinate with the Finance Dept. to see what we need to do to continue that function.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Blumer and seconded by Mr. Torkelson and the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Submitted 3/19/19 TRJ